

REMARKS

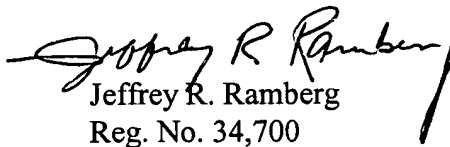
Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 10-12, 15-25, 27-32, 34, 36-38, 40-42, 45-51 and 53-62 are pending. Claims 5, 10-12, 15, 16, 21-25, 27-31, 34-36, 48-50 and 53-62 stand allowed. Claims 1, 2, 17-20, 32 and 51 were previously withdrawn from consideration, but Applicants reserved the right to request rejoinder of the claims if the withdrawn claims could be linked to an allowed claim. After reviewing the allowed and withdrawn claims, Applicants will not pursue the rejoinder option. Accordingly, Applicants have now cancelled the non-elected claims, namely claims 1, 2, 17-20, 32 and 51 without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter claimed therein, but reserve the right to pursue these claims in one or more Divisional applications. Claim 23 has been amended to correct an editorial error.

Prosecution on the merits being closed, Applicants respectfully request issuance of a Notice of Allowance directed to claims 4, 5, 10-12, 15, 16, 21-25, 27-31, 34, 36-38, 40-42, 45-50 and 53-62.

Applicants wish to draw the attention of the Office to the fact that there is a slight discrepancy between what the Office considers to be the set of pending and allowed claims, and what Applicants consider the set to be.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action on the part of Applicants would be desirable, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,


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